

Christ Church
Glendower
St. Anne's Parish
Albemarle County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-972

HABS
VA
2-GLEN
1-

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Addendum to
Christ Church (Episcopal)
Northwest side of State Route 713,
 .4 mile southwest of the inter-
 section with State Route 712
Glendower
Albemarle County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-972

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1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)

HABS No. VA-972

Location: Northwest side of Route 713, .4 miles
Southwest of the intersection with
Route 712. Glendower, Albemarle County, Virginia.
Latitude: 37° 51' 5-13"
Longitude: 78° 32' 11-55"

Present Owner: Trustees of Christ Church, Glendower, Va.

Present Occupant: Congregation of Christ Church, Glendower,
Va.

Present Use: Episcopal Church

Statement of
Significance : This is a small, but elegant building
set in a small pine forest in the rolling
farmlands of lower Albemarle County. It
is important in that it is an excellent
example of the Classical Revival style
popular in the area and that it has been
relatively unchanged and in continual use
since its completion.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

As early as 1736, the Virginia Parish of Saint James in Goochland County had as a pastor the Reverend Anthony Gavin of the Church of England. Saint James Parish at this time included the territory which in 1745 would become that of Saint Anne's Parish in Albemarle County. It is possible that as early as 1736 there may have been a log cabin church standing on the site of what would be the Ballinger Church of Saint Anne's Parish in the 1770's.

In 1745 the County of Albemarle was formed, and the portion of territory from Saint James Parish in Goochland County which extended into Albemarle County, became Saint Anne's Parish. The dividing line between the two parishes

was generally accepted as the line of the Three Notched or Three Chopt Road crossing Albemarle County from Zion's Cross-roads to Secretary's Ford of the Rivanna River to Main Street of Charlottesville past Crozet to Jarman's (Woods) Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The parish of Saint Anne's, in contrast to both Fredericksville and Saint James parishes was large with a diverse population. In 1745, when Saint Anne's was being formed, people were moving into Virginia. They were coming up the James River from the settled eastern colonies; another stream of Scottish Irish Presbyterians were moving down the Shenandoah from the north and entering Albemarle County through Jarman's Gap. Many of these new settlers came at the invitation of Governor Gooch. They came mostly from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York and became the largest element in the population of the counties of Charlotte, Prince Edward and Albemarle. And they became an important part of the life in Saint Anne's Parish.

Having such an initial division of Albemarle County suggested the possibility of further divisions into new counties and parishes. In 1757 the Tillotson Parish was formed south of the James River in what became Buckingham County in 1767. Amherst County was formed north of the James and Southwest of the line between Albemarle and Nelson counties in 1767. Finally in 1777 Fluvanna County was formed east of Albemarle which reduced both Albemarle County and Saint Anne's Parish to their final size. Saint Anne's covered the territory from the Fluvanna County line to the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains and extended along the north side of the James River from Columbia to the Three Notched Road. The present Saint Anne's Parish was known as the "Green Mountain Section."

The first church built in the parish of Saint Anne's was most probably the log cabin in 1738 which became Ballenger's Church near the residence of Mrs. Edward Scott in Warren,

Virginia. The Ballenger Church was built circa 1746 by the Reverend Robert Rose. In 1751 Samuel Jordan and Patrick Napier, wardens of the parish, purchased 400 acres of Glebe land, for Saint Anne's from William Harris. Reverend John Ramsay increased the Glebe acreage in 1759 by purchasing 300 additional acres from John Eades on the south bank of Totter Creek. Then again in 1762, 400 additional acres on Totter Creek were purchased from William Burton by the Saint Anne's vestry.

Four church buildings existed in Saint Anne's in 1772. They were Broken Back Church (after 1777 in Fluvanna County), Ballenger's Church, the Garden Church near North Garden and an unnamed church on the Hardware River near Carter's Bridge (later named Forge Church). Of these four, the Ballenger Church and Old Forge Church were the first built in the Green Mountain Section. Both were built prior to 1772. All the parish churches built between the 1740's and 1770's were in the eastern part of Saint Anne's parish. There was no parish church from North Garden to Jarman's Gap. There is mention of plans to erect two more churches in 1774. One would replace the existing Garden Church and would be in a new location. The other was a church which was on the land ceded to Fluvanna County in 1777 and therefore its contract was taken up by that parish. In 1775 both of these were recorded as under construction.

Thomas Napier, George Thompson and John Starris sold the Glebe land holdings of Saint Anne's to Joseph Cabell in 1779. The proceeds from the sale of these acres was eventually used to erect the first buildings at the University of Virginia. The church in Virginia was officially disestablished in 1784 to be reorganized as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia. Saint Anne's parish failed to reorganize and ceased to function as an active parish for 45 years.

The lapse can be easily explained by the turmoil and the upheaval of the times.

In 1818-1820, Mr. Bauman and Reverend Hatch, both from Frederickville Parish began to serve Saint Anne's Parish again. The old churches, Ballenger and Old Forge, were almost in ruins, because they had been closed and neglected. Services were still being held in the Old Forge Church until it was destroyed by fire. Eventually the Ballenger Church became a private residence. Bishop Meade said, "The first time that I ever saw it (the Forge Church) was in company with Bishop Moore, not long after his coming to Virginia . . . The resolve was taken that day, that a new and a better house must be provided for the worship of God . . ."

An agreement for the erection of a new church, near the wagon stop of Dyer's store on the main road from Carter's Bridge to Glendower where it crossed the North Garden -- Scottsville Road, was signed on August 22, 1831 by Tucker Coles, John Coles and Charles Coker with the company of Walker and Widderfield for the amount of \$1788.00. The contract for its construction was given to a "Mr. Phillips." It is almost certain that he was William B. Phillips, a brick mason who had worked for Thomas Jefferson during the construction of the University of Virginia. Phillips built a number of buildings in the area. His other documented structures are the Madison County Court House and the Greene County Court House. Christ Church was begun in 1831 while Reverend Frederick Hatch was in residence. It was consecrated on June 28, 1832 by Bishop William Meade who described the building as "a neat and excellent brick church." Christ Church has been in continuous use since this time.

In 1834 there were two established churches in Saint Anne's Parish: Christ Church and North Garden, and two more

were planned. Samuel Dyer sold the land, on which Christ Church was located, to the church vestry in 1839 for \$25.00. Sometime in 1848 or 1849 Samuel Dyer also sold the church land for the rectory on the site of his store. Around this time (1848) the vestry room was begun at a cost of \$223.13.

The Rectory was sold in 1910 because the house and the land required a great deal of upkeep. Also at this time, the graveyard was restored. The congregation had also diminished with the addition of two new churches in the parish: Saint John's in 1870 and Saint Stephen's in 1914.

After 1914 until 1961 there is little historical data on Christ Church. It was during 1961 that Charles Evans sold for \$10.00 five acres of land adjoining the original church property for expansion of the graveyard. Also in the same year, major renovations were made in interior panelling and trim, in the heating system and front approach to the church.

Persons Connected with the Structure

Ministers of Christ's Church and Saint Anne's Parish:

(1746-51)	Robert Rose
(1752-68)	John Ramsay
(1769-84)	Charles Clay (cousin of Henry Clay)
(1784-85)	Isaac Darnelle
(1795-1812)	William Crawford
(1812-18)	no minister
(1818-20)	Mr. Bausman
(1820-31)	Frederick Hatch
(1832-34)	Zachariah Heade (first minister of Christ Church)
(1834-40)	Joseph P. B. Wilmer
(1840-48)	Ebenezer Boyden
(1848-53)	Charles Ambler
(1853-60)	William Heade Nelson
(1860-69)	Samuel Ridout
(1869-96)	Thomas E. Locke
(1897-1901)	William H. Laird
(1902-03)	Wilmer Gresham
(1903-07)	Thomas Baker

Persons Connected with the Structure (cont.)

(1907-09) William H. Darbie
(1910-45) Elliot B. Mercedith
(1948-53) Beverly Tucker
(1954-57) Webster L. Simmons, Jr.
(1957-60) Frederick Eckel
(1962-65) William Martin
(1965-73) John A. Wright, Jr.

Along with the ministers in this active church are other men and women who must be mentioned as having made significant contributions to its continued existence: Mrs. H. D. Forsyth of the Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Arthur Lloyd of the Chancel Guild, Mr. Peyton S. Coles, a prominent member of the Church Vestry. And finally, Saint Anne's Parish has had the honor of counting several famous men as members at different periods in its history. Thomas Jefferson was elected to the Vestry, and while he never served, he returned to the church when he stayed at Monticello. Theodore Roosevelt also attended Christ Church when he came to his retreat, Pine Knot, formerly on the property of William Wilmer.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: This is a typical example of the Roman Revival style brick building popularized in the area by Thomas Jefferson in the latter part of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good -- Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. This church was built in temple form without a portico and surrounded by a full Doric entablature with pediments at each end. Nearly square, the

original structure was contracted in 1831 to be built approximately 40 feet long and 36 feet wide with a height of 21 feet to the top of the brick coursing. The vestry room addition was begun in 1848.

2. Foundations: The original church was set on a slightly protruding brick foundation pierced along the sides at regular intervals by small openings enclosing a crawl space. The vestry room is attached to the west (rear) side of the church, raised slightly off the ground on mortared field stone at each corner.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: All of the walls are laid in very even Flemish bond with thin delineated mortar joints that show evidence, especially on the north side, of having at one time been painted white. The entablature, pediments and all exterior trim is painted white. The vestry room is panelled with white weatherboarding.
4. Structural system, framing: The church is constructed of brick bearing walls about 14 inches thick on the sides and slightly thinner on the front and back with pegged board and half - log framing in the attic. The vestry room is of simple wood frame.
5. Doorways and doors: The entrance front, on the east end of the building, is divided into two shallow recessed panels each containing a doorway. Both doorways are hung with their original panelled doors topped with semi-circular arches set with louvered fans. All hardware on the doors is original except for one lock which was carefully replaced with a near duplicate of the same period. The panelled door to the vestry and its hardware are also original.

6. Windows and shutters: Similar to the front, both sides of the church are divided into three shallow recessed panels, each of which contains a window. The windows are wooden double-hung with eight-over-eight-light sash. Each of the windows is topped by a semi-circular arch with a louvered fan covering tongue and groove wood slats. The louvered fans over the doors and windows were installed in 1958 to replace early horizontal louvers, an example of which remains over the interior door in the vestry room. All windows on the ground floor have a pair of shutters with original or period hardware. The blocks separating the window moulding and the arches are notched to accommodate the swing of the shutters. Between the top of each doorway and the entablature is a fixed, glazed and semi-circular, arched lunette window which allows light into the upper gallery. Located in each pediment is a large lunette window with louvered fans. An exception to these is the remaining window at the rear of the church which has no fan and is glazed. The shutters contain quarter-round tops to accommodate the window. The vestry window is wooden hung eight-over-eight-light sash with shutters.

7. Roof: The roofs of the church and the vestry are (gable) with tin roofing which replaced the original heart pine shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: a) first floor: The church is essentially one large room with two entrances at the east end with the original curved communion rail and stairs. After the addition of the vestry room, no significant changes were made except for the inclusion of a

bathroom in the vestry room and a panelled screen around the organ in the southwest corner. b) second floor: The second floor consists of a gallery built for seating of the coachmen during services. c) attic: The attic is unfinished and reached by a ladder through a trap door.

2. Stairways: The only stair is between the front doors and leads to the coachmen's gallery. The steps, railing, and trim are original, and the panelling was extended to the north door trim to provide space for a closet.
3. Flooring: Flooring in all places is original hardwood averaging 4.5 inches in width and of varying lengths.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: All walls are very pale gray painted plaster over brick, except in the vestry which has plaster on wood lath on three walls. In 1961 the architectural firm of Johnson, Craven, and Gibson of Charlottesville renovated the interior by removing the simple tongue and groove wainscoting and replacing it with more detailed, lower panelling. During this renovation, workmen found painted, finished plaster underneath the old wainscoting indicating that originally nothing more than a simple floor moulding had existed.
5. Doorways and doors: There are no interior doors except for a panelled double door that was cut into the existing window to give access to the vestry room.
6. Windows: All windows on the first floor contain louvered fans in semi circular arches over the windows. All window and door trim is painted white.
7. Trim: A detailed entablature was installed around the ceiling during the 1961 renovation, covering the simple square plaster jointing of ceiling and walls.

The intricate work on the front of the coachmen's gallery and the supporting columns are all original.

8. Furniture: All pews are original and were initially arranged in three groups creating two aisles leading from the front doors to the chancel, with two pews on either side facing the altar -- of which two were removed to make room for the organ which was brought down from the gallery. During the renovation the pews were rearranged to provide a central aisle and two side aisles with a normal capacity of 118 and a maximum capacity of 136. Located near the chancel on either side are wood posts set flush with the floor indicating where the pews had been fixed. The chancel originally contained a large high pulpit with a reading desk on the left, the pulpit proper on the right, and the communion table in front. Presently, a much smaller altar is flanked by two free standing pulpits with a detached baptismal font in front of the window on the right. The altar, pulpits, font, and wall ornaments are of varied origin and believed to be of this century.
9. Lighting: Aside from the natural light from the tall windows, the only light fixture is an elaborate bronze chandelier which came from the ruins of a house on the nearby estate of Mydrie. The chandelier can be lowered by means of a winch located in the attic.
10. Heating: The church was plagued by poor heating facilities from its completion, since it has no basement and the openings in the foundation and the louvered fans in the pediments permit free circulation of outside air below and above the main room. The

first system consisted of two wood burning iron stoves located in front of the church. These flanked the pews that faced the chancel. They were moved to the rear between the windows in front of the gallery and vented through the roof. These were replaced by two oil burning stoves in approximately the same position which were removed during the renovations by Johnson, Craven, and Gibson in 1961 when a furnace was placed in the attic with air ducts in the gallery and in false walls constructed in the corners by the doors. The vestry room has a fireplace, now unused since the inclusion of an electric space heater.

D. Site:

1. Extending around the rear of the church is a graveyard containing stones with the names of prominent families of the vicinity, including those of some founders whose descendants are still active parishoners. An earth terrace in front of the church was replaced in 1970 with a brick retaining wall, steps and paved terrace.

SOURCES

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Langhorne, Elizabeth. A History of Christ Church, Glendower, Charlottesville, Virginia: By Saint Anne's Parish, Albemarle County, Virginia, 1957.

U. S. Department of the Interior. National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places Inventory, 1969: Nomination Form, Property Map Form.

Deed Book #38, p. 34. County Hall of Records, Charlottesville, Va.

Deed Book #370, p. 228. County Hall of Records, Charlottesville, Va.

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick D. Whiteside, Scottsville, Va.

Mr. Douglas Forsyth, Esmont, Va.

Mr. Walter L. Coles, Keene, Va.

Mr. Floyd E. Johnson, Glendower, Va.

Author unknown

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